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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 BAGHDAD 000343

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TAGS: [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [EINV](#) [ENGR](#) [KU](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: CHARGE AND CG MEET PM TO DISCUSS MOSUL SECURITY,
CLCS, AND COUNTER-TERRORISM

REF: BAGHDAD 00267

Classified By: CDA Patricia A. Butenis for reasons 1.5 b and d.

Summary

¶1. (C) MNF-I Commanding General (CG) David Petraeus and CDA Patricia Butenis met Thursday, January 31, 2008 with Prime Minister Maliki. In a cordial and relaxed hour-long meeting, they discussed security operations in Mosul, Turkish cut-off of electricity deliveries, implications for current GOI personnel of the Accountability and Justice Law, counter-terrorism operations against Shia religious fanatics in southern Iraq, CG's upcoming trip to Kuwait, support for Concerned Local Citizen (CLC) groups, and fighting corruption to attract foreign investment. End Summary.

Electricity Cuts

¶2. (S) Appearing tired and harried, Maliki arrived 25 minutes late to the regularly scheduled meeting. He opened with complaints about the Turkish government not delivering electricity to northern Iraq, a serious matter given the weather in the mountainous north of the country. He reported that he had contacted the GOT with no results, noting that Iraq pays for the electricity - it is not a charity case. He blamed a Turkish Department of Energy deputy minister for the problem. CG noted that he had spoken to Turkish military counterparts. Turning to the Charge, CG raised possibility that the Secretary might contact her Turkish counterpart to resolve the impasse. (Note: Embassy is working with Embassy Ankara to resolve the problem via intervention with the relevant Turkish ministries. End Note.) Maliki expressed thanks for any U.S. efforts with Turkey to resume electricity sales to Iraq.

Leadership and Laws

¶3. (S) CG applauded the PM's demonstration of the "full range of emotions" to his Ministers of Oil and Electricity, observing that his personal intervention and prodding of his subordinates demonstrated leadership. Maliki responded that he had also canceled the contracts committee as it did nothing, wasted resources, and delayed contracts being signed for necessary projects. CG offered that it was now an opportune time for the PM to use his influence to move the Provincial Powers, Budget, and other laws forward. Smiling, Maliki suggested we have to be careful with passing laws, noting that if the Justice and Accountability (De-Baath) law is not implemented properly, the Iraqi Army (IA) and Police (IP), as well as the Iraqi National

Intelligence Service, could lose their best people due to their former Baath Party connections. He complained that the Council of Representatives (COR) does not pay attention to the consequences of the laws it passes. CG noted the importance of a "Spirit of Reconciliation" to inform the implementation of the Accountability and Justice Law, agreeing that four of ISF's best generals (the commanders of the Baghdad and Basrah Operational Commands, the commander of the National Police, and the Director of the Counter-Terrorist Bureau) could face dismissal under the De-Baath law.

Mosul

14. (S) CG briefed the PM on plans for their Saturday, February 1, trip to Mosul, as previewed at last week's MCNS meeting (reftel). Maliki expressed dissatisfaction with Governor Kashmoula and a desire to exclude him from meetings concerning the security situation in Mosul, calling him dishonorable and blaming him for the decline in Mosul's security situation. CG argued for the importance of the involvement of the Governor, noting the Governor's participation in meetings led by the PM would demonstrate to the people the strength of the National Government. CG said that Kashmoula's support to the is critical, as he controls much of the services sector needed after combat operations end in various neighborhoods. (NOTE: Governor Kashmoula participated in the meeting in Mosul and was relatively constructive. End Note.) Switching topics, Maliki praised operation commander Major General Riyahd, noting that he would be promoting him to Lieutenant General and reaffirming his command of all security forces in Mosul. He also noted that the ISF would conduct

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anti-terrorist operations when the GOI and MNF-I officials were meeting in Mosul. CG welcomed both items, advising Maliki to use the media to get the message out to the Moslawi on the GOI's efforts.

Southern Iraq

15. (S) Maliki raised the importance of having specially-trained counter-terrorism (CT) forces in each IA division. He would fund the CT forces with a supplement from the Ministry of Finance if the COR continued to deny them their separate funding allocation. CG noted that MNF-I was training SWAT teams in many provinces, including Diwaniyah, to which he recently traveled and where he had had very positive meetings with provincial leaders. There was real concern that the Army of Heaven cult group would try to re-group. That said, CG stated that action against militias and Jaysh al-Mahdi Special Groups was the priority in the south. Maliki offered that there is another cult forming in Basra and that the Basra Operations Center was investigating. CG noted that the U.S. supports Iraqi Special Forces there, and that the UK was providing UAV and other support.

Kuwait

16. (S) CG told Maliki of his plans to travel to Kuwait where he will raise clearing wrecks from the channel to Um Qasr, re-opening a border crossing, and border security in general. Maliki welcomed this news, noting that the GOK is helpful, but some Kuwaitis, even some related to members of the royal family (NFI) funnel money to terrorists. He observed that it was members of the Parliament and companies that were the problem, not the GOK. He asked that the CG raise the issue of diesel deliveries, which he said are still not occurring though promised, complaining that 160 fuel delivery trucks were being held back. CG said he would check on it, but thought that the diesel was flowing.

(NOTE: The diesel is flowing, at about 55% of the desired level. End Note.)

Job Fund/CLCs

¶7. (S) Responding to the PM's question, the CG summarized points of a joint Ambassador-CG letter presented to the PM that described construction and other job training opportunities to be funded with \$1 billion in GOI funds. CG then segued the conversation into the critical importance of GOI support for the CLCs, in particular training and educational opportunities for them. He noted that the United States has already committed 150 million dollars to the CLCs and the GOI had agreed previously to match this investment. PM acknowledged the importance of vocational training and education for the CLC members since only 20 percent could be incorporated into the ISF. He also observed that many are not attracted to low-skilled construction-site jobs, but want training to be carpenters, mechanics, etc. A literacy program would be most useful too. (Note: Maliki observed that a literacy program was the only positive legacy of Saddam's rule. End Note.) CG concurred with training and educational ideas, recommending that the PM push the relevant Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs, Education, and Higher Education to act now and use the funds they already have available in their budgets.

Corruption/Investment

¶8. (S) Bringing the meeting towards closure, Maliki stated that the GOI wants large oil companies (IOCs - Integrated Oil Companies) to invest in Iraq, observing that good, well-established companies, unlike the small ones that have come in over the last year, do not bribe or behave in a corrupt manner. He complained that they did not come to Iraq because of the delays in contracting that bred corruption. CG noted that U.S. companies know such acts are illegal under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

PM's Health

¶9. (C) In response to Charge's question, Maliki said that he needs rest, but observed that he cannot rest when he sees on the morning news over breakfast that the snows from Syria and Jordan will soon fall on his people in northern Iraq who have had their electricity cut off. He asked rhetorically, "how will they stay warm?"

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